

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SIL-01

LAB-06 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 NIC-01 EURE-00 /104 W

----- 013596

P R 041415Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6811

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2586

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH MUNICIPAL WORKERS ELECT NEW CHAIRMAN

REF: (A) HELSINKI 2437; AND (B) STATE 192748

1. FINLAND'S 85,000 MEMBER UNION OF MUNICIPAL WORKERS AND SALARIED EMPLOYEES (KTV) ELECTED OLAVI DAHL ITS NEW CHAIRMAN AT SPECIAL CONGRESS HELD IN HELSINKI OCTOBER 2. DAHL WILL SUCCEED JAAKKO RIIKONEN ON NOVEMBER 1 WHEN RIIKONEN BECOMES DIRECTOR IN CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT'S NEWLY CREATED WORK SAFETY INSTITUTE. DAHL ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY WHEN HIS ONLY OPPONENT, PEKKA SALONEN, WITHDREW AFTER PERCEIVING HIS FORCES LACKED SUFFICIENT STRENGTH.

2. DAHL IS 46 YEARS OLD. HE WAS A TROLLEY DRIVER BEFORE JOINING THE KTV'S OFFICE STAFF IN 1961. HE WAS SECRETARY FOR WAGE AND SALARY QUESTIONS FROM 1966 TO 1971 WHEN HE WAS ELECTED TO THE NUMBER TWO POST IN THE UNION. DAHL SPEAKS FLUENT FINNISH AND SWEDISH BUT VERY LIMITED ENGLISH.

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3. THE KTV IS THIRD LARGEST MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF FINNISH FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (SAK) AFTER METAL-WORKERS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. IT IS FIRMLY IN THE CONTROL OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP). THE SDP OUTNUMBERS THE COMMUNISTS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 14 TO 5. IN THE UNION COUNCIL THE RATIO IS 21 TO 8 IN THE SDP'S FAVOR.

4. EMBASSY LABATT DELIVERED CONGRATULATIONS TO DAHL'S OFFICE YESTERDAY AND PRESENTED AFL-CIO INVITATION (REFTEL B) TO ATTEND MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION. DAHL WAS GRATEFUL FOR INVITATION BUT IT IS UNLIKELY HE WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. HE WILL BE REPLYING DIRECTLY TO AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DIVISION. HE HAS TRAVEL PLANS ALREADY MADE AND COMMITMENTS IN FINLAND IN LATTER PART OF OCTOBER. LANGUAGE IS ALSO A HANDICAP.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HELSIN02586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731051/aaaablpw.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) HELSINKI 2437; AND (B) STATE 192, 748
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINNISH MUNICIPAL WORKERS ELECT NEW CHAIRMAN
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005